



YUBA COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Purpose:

Effective April 1, 2001, Yuba County has established a four level Specialized Care Rate (SCR) system. Any Yuba or Sutter County licensed foster home caring for a child assessed at a Level 1, 2, 3, or 4 rate, will be eligible to receive that rate in addition to the basic rate.

I. Specialized Care Rate

- A. At this time, Yuba County is only implementing SCR for Levels 1, 2, and 3.
- B. Level 4 SCR is currently under development and will not be implemented at this time.
- C. Foster parents will be identified, trained and certified to qualify for the new specialized care rates.
- D. The higher rates require additional training in providing specialized foster care to higher needs children.
- E. The purposes of the specialized care rate system are:
 - 1. To retain qualified foster families by paying rates appropriate to the work required when caring for a foster child with special needs.
 - 2. To reduce out-of-area placement of foster children by meeting their needs in Local County licensed foster homes.
 - 3. To enable staff to directly supervise more placements.
 - 4. To enable foster parents in upgrading their skills.
 - 5. To enhance the quality of care provided to foster children.
 - 6. To keep children in geographic proximity to their families and their communities.
 - 7. To attain cost savings by using local specialized care homes as an alternative to higher cost placements.

II. Effective January 1, 2008 Yuba County's Basic Rates are:

<i>Child's Age</i>	<i>Basic Rate</i>
0 – 4	\$446
5 – 8	\$485
9 – 11	\$519
12 – 14	\$573
15 – 19	\$627

III. Specialized Care Rates are paid in addition to the Basic Rates. Effective January 1, 2008 Yuba County's Specialized Care Rates are:

Level 1	Moderate Care	\$221
Level 2	Intensive Care	\$331
Level 3	Exceptional Care	\$440
Level 4	Therapeutic Care	\$991

IV. Specialized Care Rate Determination

- A. The Social Worker will complete an assessment of the child's needs.
- B. Upon completion of the assessment, the Social Worker will complete the YCW 350 Specialized Care Rate form.
- C. This form will specify what level the Social Worker determined the child is at. The Social Worker's Supervisor will review this determination.
- D. If the Supervisor agrees with the determination, the Supervisor will sign the YCW 350 and route it to the Office Assistant for distribution.
- E. The white copy of page one will be sent to the Foster Care Eligibility Technician (ET).
- F. The need to continue the specialized care rate for foster children, and the need for a particular level, will be reevaluated every six months.
- G. Without the YCW 350 form authorizing additional 6-months, the Foster Care ET can not continue the specialized care benefit payment. Regular foster care benefit payments will be authorized.

V. Requirements

- A. Each specialized care home will be licensed for a particular level. If a specialized care home is not available to meet the needs of a level 1, 2 or 3 child, the Foster Care Licensing Worker may provisionally approve a home for a level 1, 2 or 3 for 90 days. After 90 days, regular foster care benefit payments will be authorized.
- B. The Foster Care Licensing Worker will route copies of licenses and the provisional certification to the Foster Care ET.

VI. Eligibility

- A. The YCW 350 will indicate which level the home has been approved for. It will also indicate the 6-month time period. When the YCW 350 is received, the Foster Care ET will:
 - 1. Verify there is a letter from licensing which indicates the foster home is certified (including provisionally) for the level indicated on the assessment form.
 - 2. If a letter is on file, process the rate change and send an approval notice to the Foster Home notifying them of the change in benefits.
 - 3. If a letter is not on file, contact licensing to see if an approval has been made.
 - 4. If no approval has been made, wait until the approval letter comes through.
- B. The effective date of the rate change is the approval date of the assessment for the specialized care at a particular level providing the home agrees to meet the certification requirements.

Approval Page of Assessment Form for Specialized Care Rate

Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____

Case Name: _____

Approved for:

Level 1 () \$221.00 + basic FC rate

Level 2 () \$331.00 + basic FC rate

Level 3 () \$440.00 + basic FC rate

Level 4 () \$991.00 + basic FC rate

Time Period authorized (6 month time period): _____ to _____

SW Signature: _____ Date: _____

SW Sup Signature: _____ Date: _____

Distribution: White: Eligibility FC, Yellow: Foster Parent Licensing Staff, Pink: Placement Staff, Gold: Case Copy